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June 30, 2000

**BOX PATENT APPLICATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: Application of Takahiro KIMURA, Hiroyuki KATO and Takaya YAMANAKA  
PNEUMATIC TIRES  
Our Ref. Q59907

Dear Sir:

Attached hereto is the application identified above including 26 sheets of the specification, including the claims and abstract, 9 sheets of formal drawings, an executed Assignment and PTO 1595 form, an executed Declaration and Power of Attorney, and an Information Disclosure Statement with PTO 1449.

Priority is claimed from July 2, 1999, January 13, 2000, and January 14, 2000, based on Japanese Application Nos. 11-189126, 2000-004348, and 2000-005637, respectively. The priority documents are enclosed herewith.

The Government filing fee is calculated as follows:

Total claims	12 - 20	=		x	\$18.00	=	\$0.00
Independent claims	1 - 3	=		x	\$78.00	=	\$0.00
Base Fee							\$690.00
<b>TOTAL FILING FEE</b>							<b>\$690.00</b>
Recordation of Assignment							\$40.00
<b>TOTAL FEE</b>							<b>\$730.00</b>

Checks for the statutory filing fee of \$690.00 and Assignment recordation fee of \$40.00 are attached. You are also directed and authorized to charge or credit any difference or overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and any petitions for extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 which may be required during the entire pendency of the application to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. A duplicate copy of this transmittal letter is attached.

Respectfully submitted,  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN,  
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## PNEUMATIC TIRES

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a pneumatic tire having an excellent bead portion durability, and more particularly to a heavy duty pneumatic radial tire for use in truck, bus and the like.

#### 2. Description of Related Art

In the conventional heavy duty pneumatic radial tire, it is general that as partly and sectionally shown in Fig. 1, at least one carcass ply c is toroidally extended between a pair of bead cores bc embedded in the respective bead portions b through a tread portion and sidewall portions and turned up around the bead core bc from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in a widthwise direction of the tire. In such a structure of the bead portion, when the tire is assembled onto a rim and run under loading, a part of the bead portion located outward from a rim flange rf in a radial direction is repeatedly subjected to a deformation falling down outward in a widthwise direction of the tire, whereby stress concentration is caused in a turnup end of the carcass ply c and hence there is caused a problem that separation failure is apt to be caused at a turnup end of the carcass ply.

In order to solve the separation failure at the turnup end of the carcass ply, it is usual to arrange a bead portion reinforcing layer along an outside of the turnup portion of the carcass ply so as to extend over the turnup end. This bead portion reinforcing layer is a rubberized steel cord layer usually called as a wire chafer. The arrangement of such a reinforcing layer is advantageous to control the bending deformation of the bead portion to prevent the separation failure at the turnup end. However, stress is apt to concentrate in an end position of the reinforcing layer and there is caused a fear of creating troubles such as cracking

of the bead portion and the like in the end position, and hence it becomes impossible to effectively enhance the bead portion durability.

As the tendency of flattening the tire is recently increasing, input to the bead portion becomes more severe and hence the control of separation failure at the turnup end is insufficient even when the bead portion is reinforced with the reinforcing layer.

In order to prevent the occurrence of separation failure at the turnup end, therefore, it is proposed to wind the turnup portion of the carcass ply around the bead core to locate the turnup end thereof in a zone of the bead portion having a small strain without using the bead portion reinforcing layer as disclosed in JP-A-9-156310. In this case, the strain concentration at the wound end of the carcass ply is largely mitigated to prevent the occurrence of separation failure at the wound end. However, the turnup portion of the carcass ply is replaced with the portion of the carcass ply wound around the bead core, whereby the resistance of the bead portion to the fall-down deformation is decreased and fatigues in an outer surface part of the bead portion contacting with a vicinity of an outer peripheral edge of a rim flange and in a bead heel part contacting with a base part of the rim flange are particularly increased, and hence there is caused a problem that fatigue breakage from these parts can not be eliminated.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is, therefore, an object of the invention to advantageously solve the aforementioned problems of the conventional techniques and to provide a pneumatic tire having an excellent bead portion durability by preventing the occurrence of separation failure at the wound end of the carcass ply and effectively eliminating the fatigue breakage of the bead portion.

According to the invention, there is the provision of in a pneumatic tire comprising a tread portion, a pair of sidewall portions and a pair of bead

portions and a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead cores embedded in the respective bead portions and comprised of at least one rubberized carcass ply containing steel cord(s) therein, in which the carcass ply is wound around the bead core from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in a radial direction to form a part or a whole of a wound portion of the carcass ply as a wind contact part along the peripheral face of the bead core, the improvement wherein at least one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged in the bead portion.

The carcass ply in the invention includes a carcass ply containing many steel cords arranged at a cord angle of about 70-90° with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire and a carcass ply formed by folding a single steel cord at a position corresponding to the wound part of the carcass ply and extending in the circumferential direction of the tire while detouring. Moreover, in the formation of the wind contact part, it is favorable that the carcass ply is subjected to plastic deformation in at least one of positions corresponding to corner parts of the bead core.

The term "steel cord reinforcing layer" used herein means a bead portion reinforcing layer made of rubberized steel cords. The arranging region of the steel cord reinforcing layer may be arranged either inside and outside the bead core in the widthwise direction of the tire including an inner peripheral side of the bead core.

According to the above bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention, the occurrence of separation failure at the wound end of the carcass ply can be prevented by winding the side portion of the carcass ply around the bead core along the outer peripheral face thereof. And also, the given number of the steel cord reinforcing layers are arranged in the required region of the bead portion to enhance the lateral rigidity of the bead portion, whereby the outward fall-down deformation of the bead portion in the

widthwise direction of the tire can effectively be controlled in the running of the tire under loading or the like to sufficiently prevent the occurrence of fatigue breakage of a part of the bead portion contacting with a rim flange or the like.

In a preferable embodiment of the invention, when using two or more steel cord reinforcing layers, a main body of the carcass ply other than the wound portion is sandwiched between two steel cord reinforcing layers in a thickness direction thereof. In this case, steel cords constituting one of the steel cord reinforcing layers are extended in a direction opposite to at least one of a cord extending direction of the other steel cord reinforcing layer and a cord extending direction of the carcass ply.

When the main body of the carcass ply is sandwiched between the two steel cord reinforcing layers, the lateral rigidity of the bead portion can be more enhanced as compared with the case that one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged along the inside or outside of the main body of the carcass ply in the widthwise direction of the tire, whereby the fear of causing the fatigue breakage of the bead portion can effectively be eliminated to largely improve the bead portion durability. This is particularly conspicuous when the cord extending directions are opposite between the steel cord reinforcing layers and/or between the steel cord reinforcing layer and the carcass ply. In the latter case, the rigidity of the bead portion can be further increased.

In another preferable embodiment of the invention, the steel cords constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer have a cord diameter of 1.00-1.50 mm, and a free end of the steel cord has a flare having a scattering width within a range of 1.0-1.5 times the cord diameter, and the steel cords are arranged in the steel cord reinforcing layer at a distance between the cords of 1.00-1.50 mm in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the cord, and the steel cord constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer is a Z-lay outer-sheath structure.

The term "scattering width of flare" used herein means a component of a longitudinally scattered length perpendicular to the cord axis.

In the other preferable embodiment of the invention, a start end of the steel cord reinforcing layer located at a side of a main body of the carcass ply is arranged so that a shortest distance (L) measured outward from a normal line (n) drawn at a first rim line position to an outer face of the bead portion in the radial direction of the tire is positioned within a range of 15-25 mm, while a terminal end of the steel cord reinforcing layer located at a side of the wind contact part of the carcass ply is arranged so as to position within a range sandwiched between a vertical line (m) drawn from an outermost end position of the bead core in the radial direction to the outer face of the bead portion and the normal line (n).

The term "first rim line position" used herein means an outermost end of an outer surface portion of the tire contacting with a rim in the radial direction when the tire is assembled onto a standard rim and a maximum air pressure and a maximum load capacity are applied thereto.

In a further preferable embodiment of the invention, at least one organic fiber chafer is arranged at the side of the wind contact part of the carcass ply so as to cover the terminal end of the steel cord reinforcing layer. In this case, the organic fiber cords constituting the organic fiber chafer are arranged at a cord angle of 15-75° with respect to an arranging direction of the steel cords constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer. Thus, the occurrence of separation failure at the terminal end of the steel cord reinforcing layer can be more controlled.

In a still further preferable embodiment of the invention, a cushion rubber layer is interposed between the main body of the carcass ply and the start end portion of the steel cord reinforcing layer. In this case, the cushion rubber layer at the position of the start end of the steel cord reinforcing layer has a

rubber gauge of 1.5-2.0 mm viewing a section in a widthwise direction of the tire. Thus, the occurrence of separation failure at the start end of the steel cord reinforcing layer can be more controlled.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5           The invention will be described with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a structure of a bead portion in the conventional tire;

10           Fig. 2 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a first embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention;

Fig. 3 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a second embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention;

15           Figs. 4a to 4c are diagrammatically section views of various modified embodiments of the bead portion structure shown in Fig. 3, respectively;

Fig. 5 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a third embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention;

20           Fig. 6 is a diagrammatically left-half section view of an embodiment of the pneumatic tire according to the invention;

Fig. 7 is a schematically partial side view of a steel cord reinforcing layer perspectively drawn from a direction of arrow X in Fig. 6;

25           Fig. 8 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a fourth embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention;

Fig. 9 is a diagrammatically section view illustrating a fifth embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the

invention; and

Fig. 10 is a diagrammatic section view illustrating a sixth embodiment of the bead portion structure in the pneumatic tire according to the invention.

5 DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In Fig. 2 is partly and sectionally shown a first embodiment of a bead portion in the pneumatic tire according to the invention. Numeral 1 is a single carcass ply, which toroidally extends from a tread portion (not shown) through a sidewall portion (not shown) up to a bead portion 2 and contains steel cords  
10 arranged at a cord angle of about 70-90° with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire (not shown).

Each side portion of the carcass ply 1 is wound around a bead core 3 embedded in the bead portion 2 from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in a radial direction to form a wind contact part 4 around a peripheral  
15 face of the bead core 3 therealong.

In the illustrated embodiment, the wind contact part is formed by winding the carcass ply from the inside toward the outside in the widthwise direction of the tire, but it is possible to form the wind contact part by winding from the outside toward the inside in the widthwise direction of the tire.

20 In the formation of the wind contact part 4, it is favorable that at least one portion of the carcass ply corresponding to respective corner part of the bead core 3 is subjected to plastic deformation to thereby more exactly extend along the peripheral face of the bead core. As a result, the wind contact part 4 is effectively restrained by the bead core 3, whereby fears of getting out cords from  
25 the carcass ply and creating separation failure at the wind contact part can advantageously be eliminated.

Prior to the winding of the carcass ply 1 around the bead core 3, the plastic deformed position is favorable to be previously formed in a portion of the



carcass ply corresponding to the wind contact part 4, whereby the plastic deformation can always and exactly be carried out as is expected and hence the above effect can be more enhanced.

Then, the wind contact part 4 is interposed between the bead core 3  
5 and a bead filler 5 located at an outer peripheral side thereof and comprised of hard rubber stock 5a and soft rubber stock 5b, whereby the wind contact part 4 can be more closed to the bead core 3 through the bead filler 5 to more advantageously prevent the get-out of the cords and the separation failure at the wind contact part 4.

10 Preferably, the wind contact part 4 is extended along the peripheral face of the bead core 3 over a half periphery of a sectional profile of the bead core, whereby the above effect can be more developed. Moreover, the bead core 3 usually has a sectional profile shape such as polygon, circle or the like.

In the illustrated embodiment, two steel cord reinforcing layers 7  
15 (hereinafter referred to as a wire chafer) are arranged in the bead portion 2 so as to extend outward from an inner peripheral side portion of the bead core 3 along the carcass ply 1 in the widthwise direction of the tire and arrive at an outer peripheral side exceeding over an outer peripheral edge of a contact zone between an outer surface of the bead portion and a rim flange 6 in the radial  
20 direction and also two steel cord reinforcing layers 9 (wire chafer) are arranged at an inside of the bead portion 2 in the widthwise direction of the tire and in an inner peripheral zone from an outer end of the bead filler 5 in the radial direction so as to sandwich a main body 8 of the carcass ply 1 therebetween from a thickness direction thereof. Moreover, the wire chafer 9 may be further  
25 extended outward from the outer end of the bead filler in the radial direction.

The term "contact zone with the rim flange" used herein means a maximum contact zone of the outer surface of the bead portion in the running of the tire under loading.

According to the above arrangement of the wire chafers 7, 9, when load is applied to the bead portion 2 in the running of the tire under loading, the wire chafer 7 located outside in the widthwise direction of the tire acts to control the flowing of rubber in the radial direction/widthwise direction of the tire at the contact zone with the rim flange and the displacement into the equatorial direction of the tire, while the wire chafer 9 located inside in the widthwise direction of the tire acts to control the fall-down of the bead portion outward in the widthwise direction of the tire (i.e. increasing the rigidity).

As a result, the lateral rigidity of the bead portion 2 is increased to effectively control the fall-down deformation of the bead portion outward in the widthwise direction of the tire, so that fatigues in the outer surface part of the bead portion contacting with the vicinity of the outer peripheral edge of the rim flange 6 and in a bead heel part contacting with a base part of the rim flange 6 can sufficiently be controlled to largely improve the bead portion durability.

When the cords are crossed with each other and extended in opposite directions between the two wire chafers 7 and between the two wire chafers 9, preferably among the wire chafers 7, 9 and the carcass ply 1, the wire chafers 7 or 9 are deformed so as to control their movements and hence the effect of controlling the fall-down deformation outward in the widthwise direction of the bead portion is more increased.

Moreover, either the wire chafers 7 and 9 shown in Fig. 2 can be omitted. For example, when the wire chafers 7 are omitted, it is favorable that an inner end of the wire chafer 9 located between the main body 8 of the carcass ply 1 and the bead filler 5 in the radial direction is positioned in the vicinity of the bead core 3 and an inner end portion of the other wire chafer 9 in the radial direction is positioned along the inner peripheral side of the bead core 3 and fastened through the bead core 3 as shown in Fig. 3 for enhancing the effect of controlling the fall-down deformation.

Figs. 4a to 4c are modified embodiments of Fig. 3, wherein the arrangement of the wire chafers 9 is changed together with the change in the arrangement of the hard rubber stock 5a and soft rubber stock 5b constituting the bead filler 5 while rendering the wind contact part 4 of the carcass ply 1 into an approximately elliptical form.

In the embodiment of Fig. 4a, the other wire chafer 9 as shown in Fig. 3 is turned up through the inner peripheral side of the bead core 3 upward in the radial direction of the tire at the outside in the widthwise direction thereof.

Fig. 4b is a further modified embodiment of Fig. 4a, wherein two additional reinforcing layers 10 made of organic fiber cords such as nylon fiber cords and the like are extended from the inner peripheral side of the bead core 3 upward in the radial direction of the tire at the outside in the widthwise direction thereof so as to hold down the other wire chafer 9 and outer ends of the additional reinforcing layers 10 in the radial direction located at the outside in the widthwise direction are positioned upward from the outer end of the other wire chafer 9 in the radial direction.

In the embodiment of Fig. 4c, the wire chafers 9 are arranged in the same manner as in Fig. 3 and two additional reinforcing layers 10 made of nylon fiber cords are located at outer peripheral sides of the wind contact part 4 of the carcass ply 1 and the other wire chafer 9 and wound around the bead core 3 from the inside of the tire toward the outside thereof in the radial direction.

In any case of the above bead portion structures, the separation failure at the wind contact part 4 of the carcass ply 1 is sufficiently prevented, and also the fatigue breakage of the bead portion can advantageously be eliminated to considerably improve the bead portion durability.

Fig. 5 shows a case that a single steel cord reinforcing layer or wire chafer 9 is arranged in the bead portion 2 along the main body 8 and wind contact part 4 of the carcass ply 1 and outward in the radial direction of the tire

at the outside in the widthwise direction thereof.

In Fig. 6 is shown a diagrammatically left-half section of an embodiment of the pneumatic tire according to the invention. This tire 10 comprises a tread portion 11, a pair of sidewall portions 12, a pair of bead portions 13, and a radial carcass 14 comprised of one rubberized steel cord ply extending between a pair of bead cores 15 embedded in the respective bead portions 13 and reinforcing the above portions 11 to 13. Furthermore, the tire 10 comprises a belt 16 arranged on an outer periphery of the carcass 14 for reinforcing the tread portion 11 and one or more steel cord reinforcing layers 17 (hereinafter referred to as wire chafer) reinforcing the bead portion 13, one steel cord reinforcing layer 17 in the illustrated embodiment. The wire chafer 17 is arranged so as to extend from at least an outside of the tire in a widthwise direction thereof to an inside of a main body 14b of the carcass 14. In Fig. 6, numeral 18 is a stiffener rubber or bead filler, and symbol E is an equatorial plane of the tire.

In the tire 10, the carcass 14 is wound around the bead core 15 from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in the widthwise direction to form a wind contact part 14w along an outer peripheral face of the bead core 15. The wind contact part 14w has a terminal end 14we in the vicinity of the main body 14b of the carcass 14 at an outer peripheral position of the bead core 15.

As shown in Fig. 7, the steel cord reinforcing layer 17 has many steel cords 17C each having only a strand structure without using a helically wrapped filament, wherein these steel cords 17C are arranged at a given inclination cord angle with respect to the radial direction of the tire 10. Each of the steel cords 17C has a cord diameter R within a range of 1.00-1.50 mm.

Further, the steel cord 17C at a turnup end 17e of the wire chafer 17 has a flare f at its cut end 17Ce. This flare f indicates a longitudinally scattered length f at the turnup end 17Ce when the steel cord 17C is cut by means of a cutting tool as defined in "Testing method of steel tire cord" of JIS G3510 (1992).

In the invention, a component of a width  $F$  (mm) in a direction perpendicular to an axis of the cord 17C is adopted as the flare  $f$ . The flare  $f$  has a scattering width  $F$  corresponding to 1.0-1.5 times the cord diameter  $R$ .

Moreover, many steel cords 17C are arranged in the wire chafer 17 in  
5 such a manner that a distance  $D$  in a direction perpendicular to the axis of the cord 17C between the cords 17C located inward from the turnup end 17Ce in the radial direction is within a range of 1.00-1.50 mm. Preferably, the cord distance  $D$  is equal to the cord diameter  $R$ . And also, a coating rubber is filled in the cord distance  $D$ .

10 The tire 10 having the above structure develops the following effects

(1)-(4):

(1) Since the wind contact part 14w of the carcass 14 has a terminal end, strain applied to the terminal end becomes very small and there is no fear of causing cracks at this terminal end.

15 (2) The wire chafer 17 is formed by arranging the steel cords 17C each having a diameter  $R$  of 1.00-1.50 mm at a cord distance  $D$  of 1.00-1.50 mm, so that the sufficient bead portion reinforcing effect can be obtained without causing problems in the production. Even if crack is created at the turnup end 17Ce of the steel cord 17C, the crack hardly connects between the adjoining turnup ends  
20 17Ce and hence the occurrence of separation failure is prevented.

(3) If the crack created at the turnup end 17Ce grows along the axis of the cord 17C, since the steel cord has no wrapping filament serving as a mediation connecting cracks of adjoining cords to each other, the connection between adjoining cracks is obstructed to control the occurrence of separation failure.

25 (4) Since the turnup end 17Ce of the steel cord 17C has a scattering width  $F$  corresponding to 1.0-1.5 times the cord diameter  $R$ , strain applied to the turnup end 17Ce is dispersed into individual filaments constituting the cord in the running of the tire under loading to largely control the occurrence of crack at the

turnup end 17Ce.

The resistance to separation at turnup end (17Ce) portion of the wire chafer 17 is considerably improved by the combination of the above items (2)-(4) and hence the excellent bead portion durability can be obtained.

5           When the diameter R of the steel cord 17C is less than 1.00 mm, the end count should be increased for ensuring the strength and rigidity of the wire chafer 17 and the increase of the end count considerably reduces the distance D between the cords 17C and hence the created cracks are apt to be connected to each other to easily bring about the occurrence of separation failure, while when  
10 it exceeds 1.50 mm, the bending rigidity of the cord 17C becomes too high and it is difficult to bend the wire chafer 17 in the tire building.

          When the cord distance d is less than 1.00 mm, the cracks are apt to be easily connected to each other as mentioned above, which easily brings about the occurrence of separation failure, while when it exceeds 1.50 mm, the  
15 strength and rigidity of the wire chafer 17 considerably lower and the effect by the wire chafer 17 can not be obtained.

          And also, the case that the scattering width F is less than 1.0 times the cord diameter R is not actually existent, while when it exceeds 1.5 times, the filaments constituting the cord are scattered in a long region ranging inward  
20 form the turnup end 17Ce in the longitudinal direction of the cord 17C to cause disengagement of the cord 17C and hence troubles are caused at the tire production steps.

          The steel cord 17C is suitable to have a Z-lay outer-sheath structure. Because, the outer-sheath is a strand layer located on the surface of the cord and  
25 if the filaments on this surface layer are an S-lay, strain applied to the cord in the running of the tire under loading turns toward a direction going away from the cord and hence crack growing along the axis of the cord is apt to be easily connected to crack created in the adjoining cord.

Then, a bead portion in another embodiment of the pneumatic tire according to the invention is sectionally shown in Fig. 8, wherein numeral 21 is a bead portion, numeral 22 a carcass ply, numeral 23 a sidewall portion, numeral 24 a bead core, and numeral 25 a steel cord reinforcing layer or wire chafer.

5 In the tire of Fig. 8, at least one rubberized carcass ply 22 containing steel cords arranged substantially in a radial direction (concretely at a cord angle of 70-90° with respect to an equatorial plane of the tire) is constructed with a main body 22a toroidally extending between a pair of bead cores 24 and reinforcing the bead portion 21, sidewall portion 23 and a tread portion (not shown) and a turnup portion 22b wound around the bead core 24 along an outer peripheral face thereof, and also a belt (not shown) comprised of at least one rubberized cord layer is arranged on a crown portion (not shown) of the carcass ply 21 for reinforcing the tread portion. According to the invention, a wind contact part 26 wound around the bead core 24 along an outer peripheral face thereof is formed in the turnup portion 22b of the carcass ply 22, whereby the bead portion durability can be improved.

That is, the getting-out of the cords from the carcass ply 22 and the occurrence of separation failure at the turnup end of the carcass ply 22 can be prevented by forming the wind contact part 26 in the turnup portion of the carcass ply 22, whereby the bead portion is considerably strengthened as compared with the conventional tire having the usual turnup structure of the carcass as shown in Fig. 1.

However, when a higher load is applied to the tire having only the wind contact part as mentioned above, a large bending deformation at the rim flange 34 as a fulcrum can not effectively be controlled and hence it is apt to cause cracks in the bead portion 21 contacting with the rim flange 34 by repetition of such a bending deformation.

For this end, according to the invention, at least one steel cord

reinforcing layer or wire chafer 25 is arranged in the bead portion 21 so as to extend along the main body 22a of the carcass ply 22 toward the turnup portion 22b thereof and turn around the bead core 24 from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in a widthwise direction 27, wherein a start end 28 of the wire chafer 25 located at the main body side of the carcass ply 22 is arranged so that a shortest distance L measured outward from a normal line n drawn at a first rim line position 29 to an outer face 33 of the bead portion 21 in a radial direction 30 of the tire is positioned within a range of 15-25 mm, while a terminal end 31 of the wire chafer 25 located at the turnup portion side of the carcass ply 22 is arranged so as to position within a range sandwiched between a vertical line m drawn from an outermost end position 32 of the bead core 24 in the radial direction to the outer face 33 of the bead portion 21 and the above normal line n. Thus, the above bending deformation can effectively be controlled to considerably improve the bead portion durability.

The reason why the start end 28 of the wire chafer 25 is positioned within the range of shortest distance L of 15-25 mm is due to the fact that when the shortest distance L is less than 15 mm, the circumferential deformation of the carcass ply can not sufficiently be controlled and hence the bending rigidity of the bead portion becomes large to easily cause troubles in the bead portion, while when it exceeds 25 mm, the start end 28 approaches to a flex zone of the tire, particularly low-section profile tire and hence stress concentrates in the start end 28 of the wire chafer 25 to easily cause separation failure.

On the other hand, the reason why the terminal end 31 of the wire chafer 25 is positioned between the vertical line n and the normal line m is due to the fact that when the terminal end 31 is located down ward from the vertical line m in the radial direction of the tire, the turnup portion 22b of the carcass ply 22 can not sufficiently be protected and separation failure at an interface between the terminal end 31 and the turnup portion 22b is apt to be caused,



while when it is located upward from the normal line n in the radial direction, a large shearing strain is applied to the terminal end 31 to easily cause troubles in the bead portion.

As shown in Fig. 9, at least one organic fiber chafer, two organic  
5 fiber chafers 35a, 35b in the illustrated embodiment covering a terminal end 31 of the wire chafer 25 may be arranged at the turnup portion side of the carcass ply 22. In this case, shearing strain at the terminal end 31 of the wire chafer 25 can be more suppressed to further improve the bead portion durability.

When organic fiber cords 36 in the organic fiber chafers 35a, 35b are  
10 arranged at a cord angle of 15-75° with respect to a cord arranging direction of the wire chafer 25, they can bear force applied from various directions to the terminal end portion of the wire chafer 25 and hence shearing strain at the terminal end 31 of the wire chafer 25 can be more suppressed.

In case that it is required to more control the separation failure at the  
15 start end 28 of the wire chafer 25, as shown in Fig. 10, a cushion rubber layer 38 may be interposed between the main body 22a of the carcass ply 22 and the star end portion of the wire chafer 25.

Moreover, it is favorable that a rubber gauge t of the cushion rubber  
layer 38 at a position corresponding to the start end 28 of the wire chafer 25 is  
20 1.5-2.0 mm at a section in the widthwise direction of the tire. When the rubber gauge t is less than 1.5 mm, the effect of controlling separation failure by arranging the cushion rubber layer 38 can not sufficiently be obtained, while when it exceeds 2.0 mm, there is cased a fear that the effect of controlling the circumferential deformation by the wire chafer 25 can not sufficiently be  
25 obtained.

The following examples are given in illustration of the invention and are not intended as limitations thereof.

#### Examples 1-4

A test for evaluating a bead portion durability on a drum is carried out with respect to tires of Examples 1-4 having a bead portion structure as shown in Figs. 4 and 5 and a conventional tire of Fig. 1 to obtain results as shown in Table 1. The result is represented by an index on the basis that the conventional tire is 100, wherein the larger the index value, the better the durability.

In this test, a tire to be tested having a tire size of 285/60R22.5 is assembled onto a rim having a rim width of 9.00×22.5 and inflated under an air pressure of 900 kPa and run on the drum under a load of 3150 kgf × 1.5 until separation failure is created in an outer surface part of the bead portion contacting with a rim flange due to flatting (rubber flowing).

Table 1

Tire	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Conventional tire
Structure	Fig. 4a	Fig. 4b	Fig. 4c	Fig. 5	Fig. 1
Bead portion durability (index)	175	170	185	160	100

As seen from Table 1, all example tires have a considerably improved bead portion durability as compared with the conventional tire because the effect of preventing separation failure at the turnup end of the carcass ply and the effect of preventing the fatigue breakage are improved.

#### Examples 5-9, Comparative Examples 1-5

There are provided radial ply tires for truck and bus of Examples 5-9 having a tire size of 315/60R22.5 and a structure as shown in Figs. 6 and 7. In order to confirm the effect of the example tire, there are provided a conventional tire having a structure shown in Fig. 1 and tires of Comparative Examples 1-5 having the structure shown in Fig. 6 but parts outside the adequate ranges.

With respect to steel cords 17C of a steel cord reinforcing layer 17 in these tires, cord diameter R (mm), distance D between cords (mm), ratio of scattering width F (mm)/cord diameter R (mm) and lay direction (Z or S) in outer-sheath are shown in Table 2.

- 5                   With respect to these tires, a durability test on a drum under higher internal pressure and load is carried out to evaluate a bead portion durability. In this case, the running distance until the occurrence of trouble in bead portion is measured and evaluated by an index on the basis that the conventional tire is 100, wherein the larger the index value, the better the durability. And also, the
- 10   cause on the trouble in the bead portion is observed and specified as separation at turnup end of carcass ply or separation at terminal end of wire chafer. The former separation is represented by SEP. at turnup end and the latter separation is represented by SEP. at terminal end. These results are also shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Items	Conven- tional tire	Comparative Example					Example				
		1	2	3	4	5	5	6	7	8	9
Cord diameter R (mm)	0.80	0.80	1.23	1.23	0.80	1.77	1.32	1.41	1.41	1.05	1.05
Distance between cords D (mm)	0.73	0.73	0.88	1.93	1.45	1.45	1.25	1.41	1.15	1.44	1.44
F (mm)/R (mm)	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.71	1.05	1.71	1.33	1.38	1.38	1.20	1.40
Lay direction	S	S	S	S	S	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z	Z
Bead portion durability (index)	100	105	73	tire production is impossible			147	165	151	155	159
Trouble cause	SEP. at turnup end	SEP. at terminal end	SEP. at terminal end				SEP. at terminal end	SEP. at terminal end	SEP. at terminal end	SEP. at terminal end	SEP. at terminal end

As seen from table 2, all example tires are considerably superior in the bead portion durability to the conventional tire, while tires of Comparative Examples 3-5 can not actually be produced and the tires of Comparative examples 1-2 are equal to or less than the conventional tire in the bead portion durability.

Examples 10-16, Comparative Examples 6-10

There are provided pneumatic tires of Examples 10-16 having a tire size of TBR 315/60R22.5 and then a bead portion durability thereof is evaluated by the following method.

In these tires, positions of start end 28 and terminal end 31 of wire chafer 25, presence or absence and rubber gauge  $t$  of cushion rubber layer 38, presence or absence and cord angle of organic fiber chafer 35 are shown in Table 3.

For the comparison, there are provided a conventional tire shown in Fig. 1 and comparative tires (Comparative Examples 6-10) wherein either start end position or terminal end position of wire chafer is outside the range defined in the invention.

The tire to be tested is assembled onto a rim of  $9.00 \times 22.5$  and subjected to a test for measuring circumferential deformation and a drum test for bead portion durability to evaluate the bead portion durability.

In the test for measuring the circumferential deformation, a circumferential displacement is measured under a condition that the tire is freely pushed down by a force 66.15 kN from the top. The measured value is represented by an index on the basis that the conventional tire is 100, wherein the smaller the index value, the smaller the circumferential displacement.

In the drum test for bead portion durability, the tire is run on a rotating drum at a speed of 60 km/h under conditions of internal pressure: 900 kPa and load: 66.15 kN to measure a running distance until the occurrence

of tire trouble. The running distance is represented by an index on the basis that the conventional tire is 100, wherein the larger the index value, the better the durability.

The measured results are also shown in Table 3.

Table 3

	Wire chafer 25		Cushion rubber layer 38		Organic fiber chafer		Bead portion durability	
	position of start end 28	position of terminal end 31	arrangement	rubber gauge	arrangement	cord angle	index of circumferential deformation	index of drum test for bead portion durability
Conventional tire	L = 0 mm	normal line n + 10 mm	absence	—	absence	—	100	100
Comparative Example 6	L = +30 mm	normal line n - 5 mm	presence	1.5	absence	—	61	105 (peculiar trouble)
Comparative Example 7	L = +20 mm	vertical line m - 5 mm	absence	—	absence	—	80	105 (peculiar trouble)
Comparative Example 8	L = +20 mm	normal line n + 5 mm	presence	1.0	absence	—	81	110 (peculiar trouble)
Comparative Example 9	L = +20 mm	normal line n + 5 mm	presence	2.5	absence	—	90	112 (peculiar trouble)
Comparative Example 10	L = +20 mm	vertical line m - 5 mm	absence	—	absence	—	55	88 (peculiar trouble)
Example 10	L = +15 mm	normal line n - 5 mm	presence	1.5	absence	—	89	158
Example 11	L = +20 mm	normal line n - 5 mm	presence	2.0	absence	—	83	192
Example 12	L = +25 mm	normal line n - 5 mm	presence	1.5	absence	—	77	173
Example 13	L = +20 mm	on normal line n	absence	—	absence	—	75	121
Example 14	L = +20 mm	normal line n - 5 mm	absence	—	absence	—	69	140
Example 15	L = +20 mm	on vertical line m	absence	—	absence	—	64	152
Example 16	L = +20 mm	on normal line n	absence	—	presence *1	±45°	52	170

\*1 : Two nylon chafers, shortest distance between m and n is 10 mm.

As seen from Table 3, all example tires are excellent in the bead portion durability as compared with the conventional tire. On the other hand, peculiar trouble is caused when the tires of Comparative Examples 6-10 are subjected to the drum test for bead portion durability.

- 5           As mentioned above, according to the invention, there can be provided pneumatic tires having a considerably improved bead portion durability by combining the wind contact part of the radial carcass ply with the steel cord reinforcing layer for the bead portion. Particularly, the invention is suitable for pneumatic radial tires used in heavy duty vehicles such as truck, bus
- 10   and the like running under higher internal pressure and load.



What is claimed is:

1. In a pneumatic tire comprising a tread portion, a pair of sidewall portions and a pair of bead portions and a carcass toroidally extending between a pair of bead cores embedded in the respective bead portions and comprised of at least one rubberized carcass ply containing steel cord(s) therein, in which the carcass ply is wound around the bead core from an inside of the tire toward an outside thereof in a radial direction to form a part or a whole of a wound portion of the carcass ply as a wind contact part along the peripheral face of the bead core, the improvement wherein at least one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged in the bead portion.

2. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein when using two or more steel cord reinforcing layers, a main body of the carcass ply other than the wound portion is sandwiched between two steel cord reinforcing layers in a thickness direction thereof.

3. A pneumatic tire according to claim 2, wherein steel cords constituting one of the steel cord reinforcing layers are extended in a direction opposite to at least one of a cord extending direction of the other steel cord reinforcing layer and a cord extending direction of the carcass ply.

4. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the wind contact part is formed by subjecting the carcass ply to plastic deformation in at least one of positions corresponding to corner parts of the bead core.

5. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the steel cords constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer have a cord diameter of 1.00-1.50 mm, and a free end of the steel cord has a flare having a scattering width within a range of 1.0-1.5 times the cord diameter.

6. A pneumatic tire according to claim 5, wherein the steel cords are arranged in the steel cord reinforcing layer at a distance between the cords of 1.00-1.50 mm in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the cord.

7. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein the steel cord constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer is a Z-lay outer-sheath structure.

8. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a start end of the steel cord reinforcing layer located at a side of a main body of the carcass ply is arranged so that a shortest distance (L) measured outward from a normal line (n) drawn at a first rim line position to an outer face of the bead portion in the radial direction of the tire is positioned within a range of 15-25 mm, while a terminal end of the steel cord reinforcing layer located at a side of the wind contact part of the carcass ply is arranged so as to position within a range sandwiched between a vertical line (m) drawn from an outermost end position of the bead core in the radial direction to the outer face of the bead portion and the normal line (n).

9. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein at least one organic fiber chafer is arranged at the side of the wind contact part of the carcass ply so as to cover the terminal end of the steel cord reinforcing layer.

10. A pneumatic tire according to claim 9, wherein the organic fiber cords constituting the organic fiber chafer are arranged at a cord angle of  $15-75^{\circ}$  with respect to an arranging direction of the steel cords constituting the steel cord reinforcing layer.

11. A pneumatic tire according to claim 1, wherein a cushion rubber layer is interposed between the main body of the carcass ply and the start end portion of the steel cord reinforcing layer.

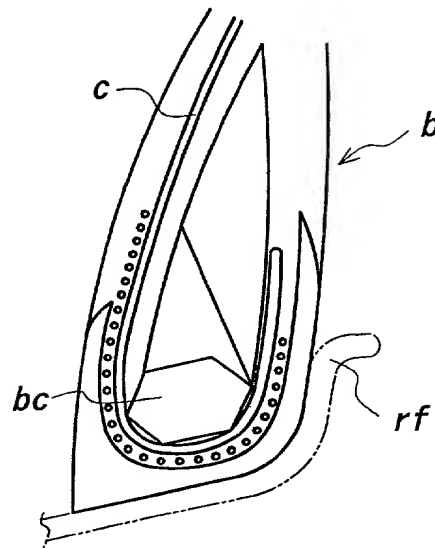
12. A pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein the cushion rubber layer at the position of the start end of the steel cord reinforcing layer has a rubber gauge of 1.5-2.0 mm viewing a section in a widthwise direction of the tire.

## ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

A pneumatic tire comprises a tread portion, a pair of sidewall portions and a pair of bead portions and a radial carcass of at least one rubberized carcass ply containing steel cord therein and wound around the bead core to form a part or a whole of a wound portion of the carcass ply as a wind contact part along the peripheral face of the bead core, wherein at least one steel cord reinforcing layer is arranged in the bead portion.

# FIG. 1

PRIOR ART



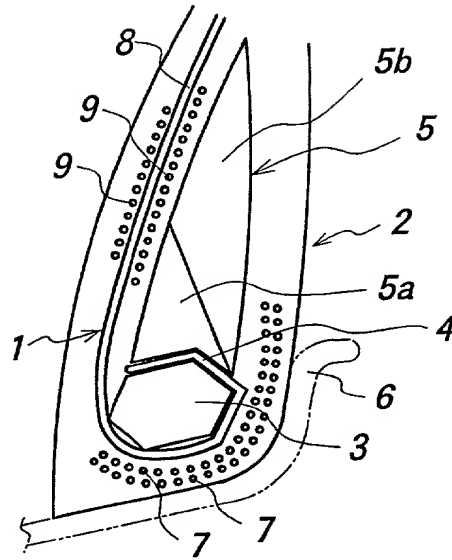
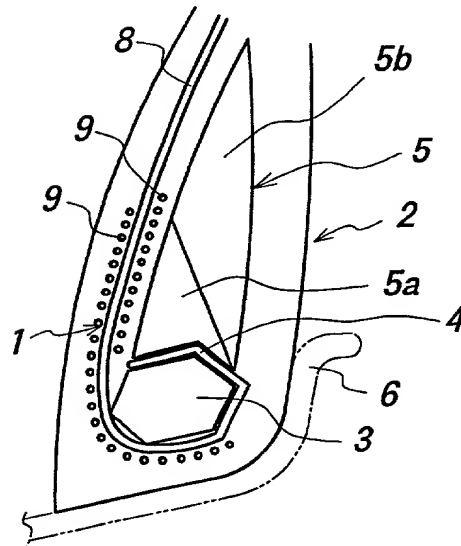
**FIG. 2****FIG. 3**

FIG. 4c

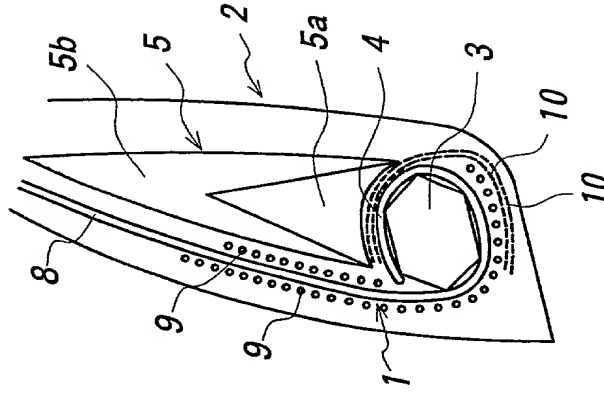


FIG. 4b

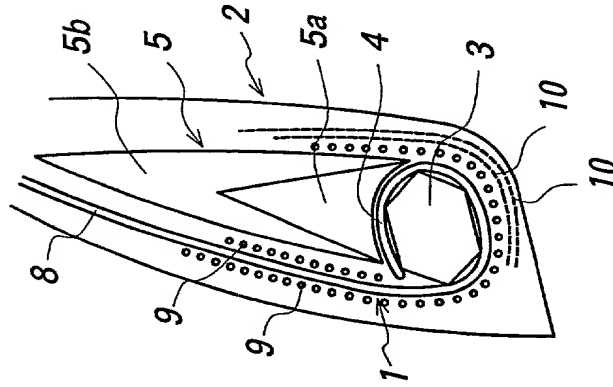
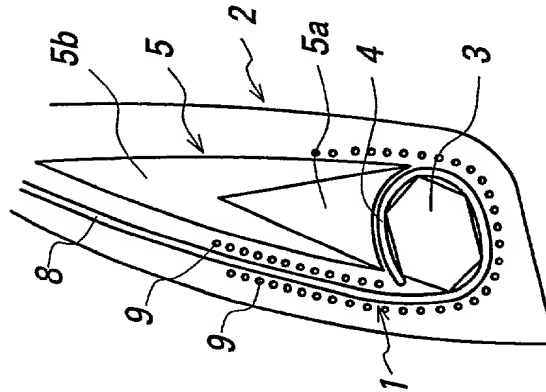


FIG. 4a



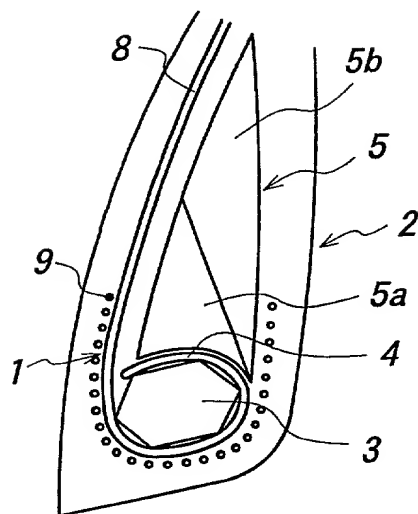
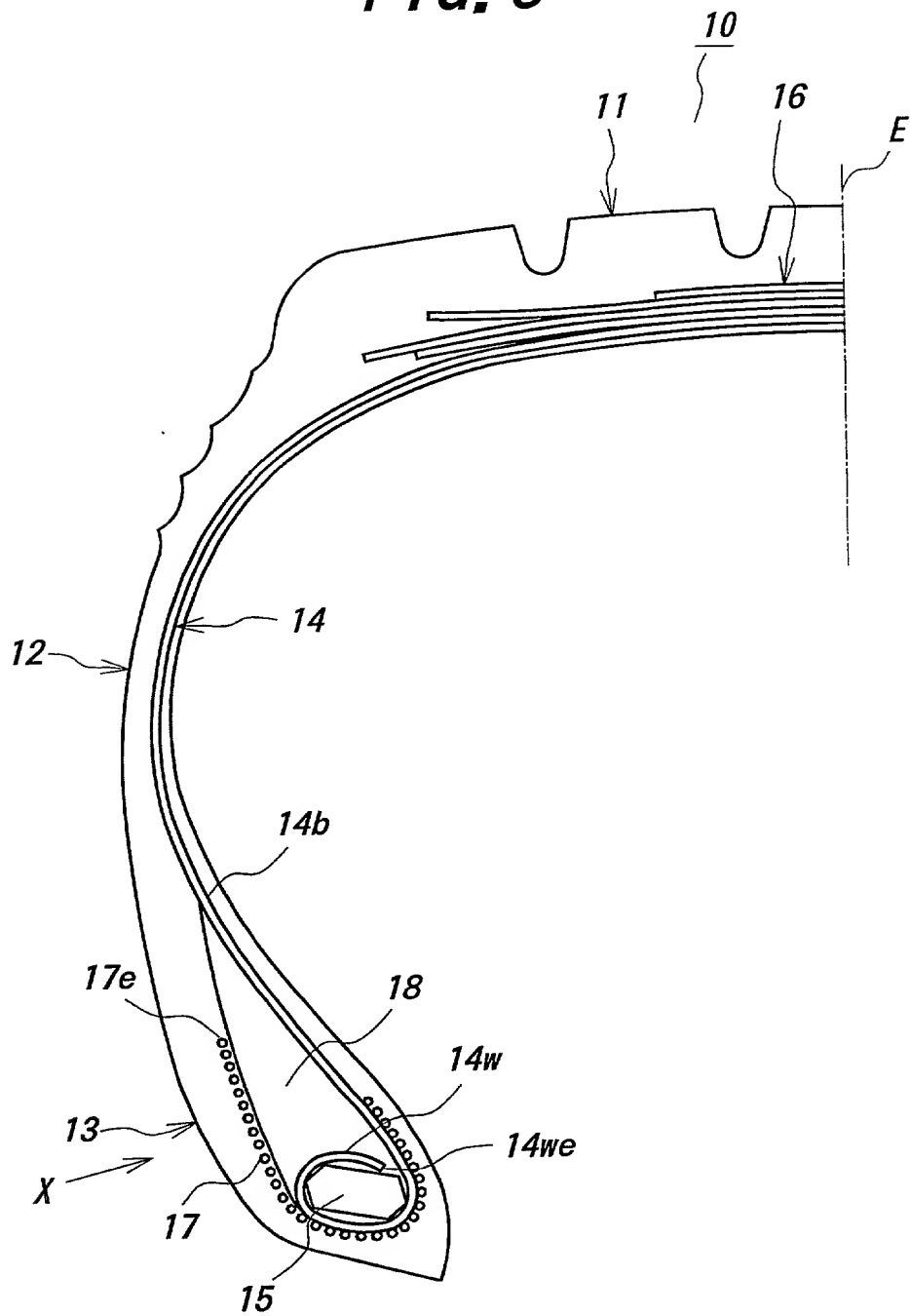
**FIG. 5**

FIG. 6





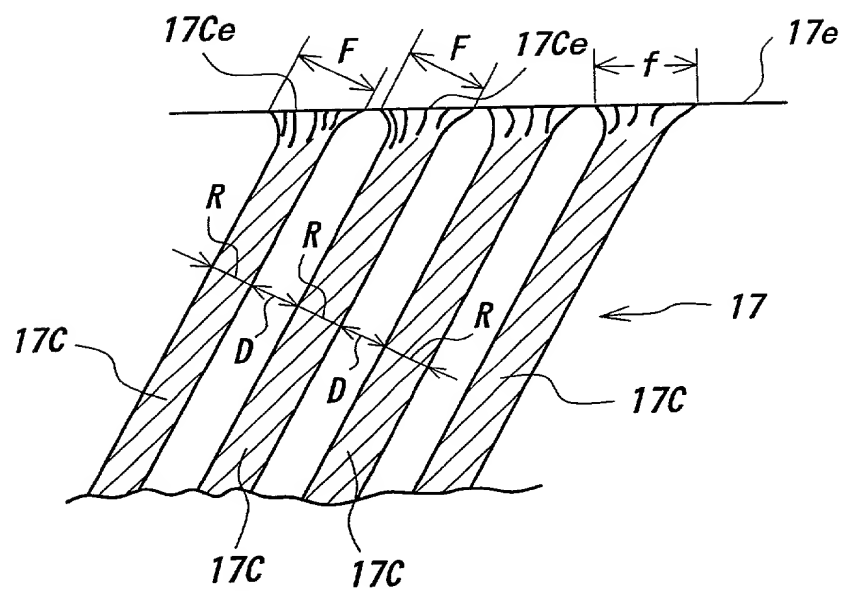
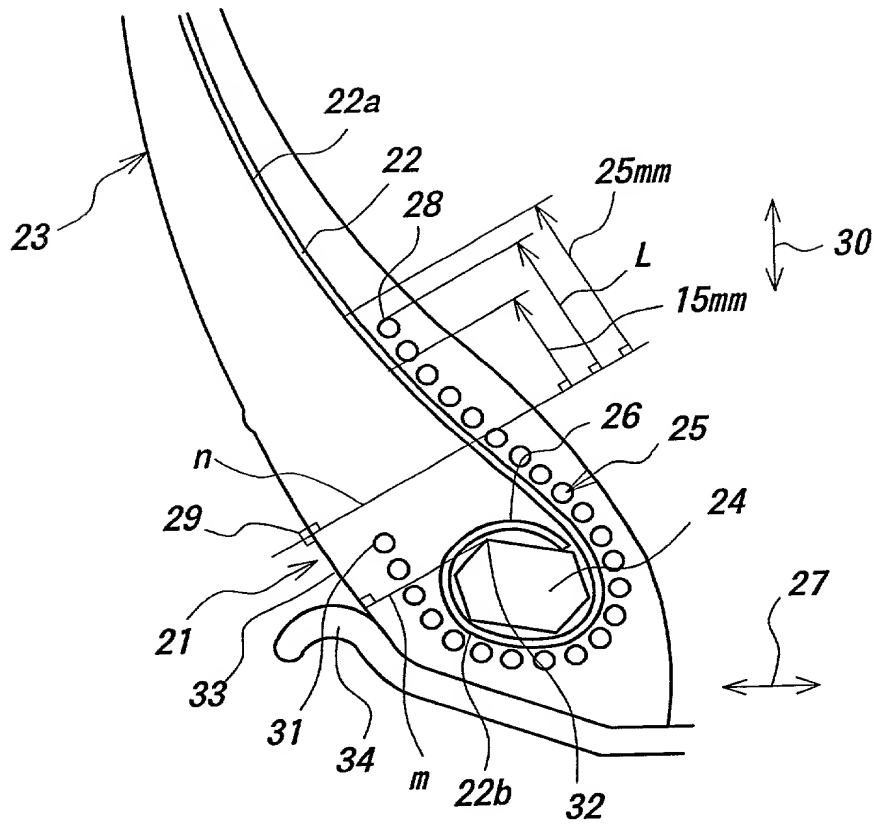
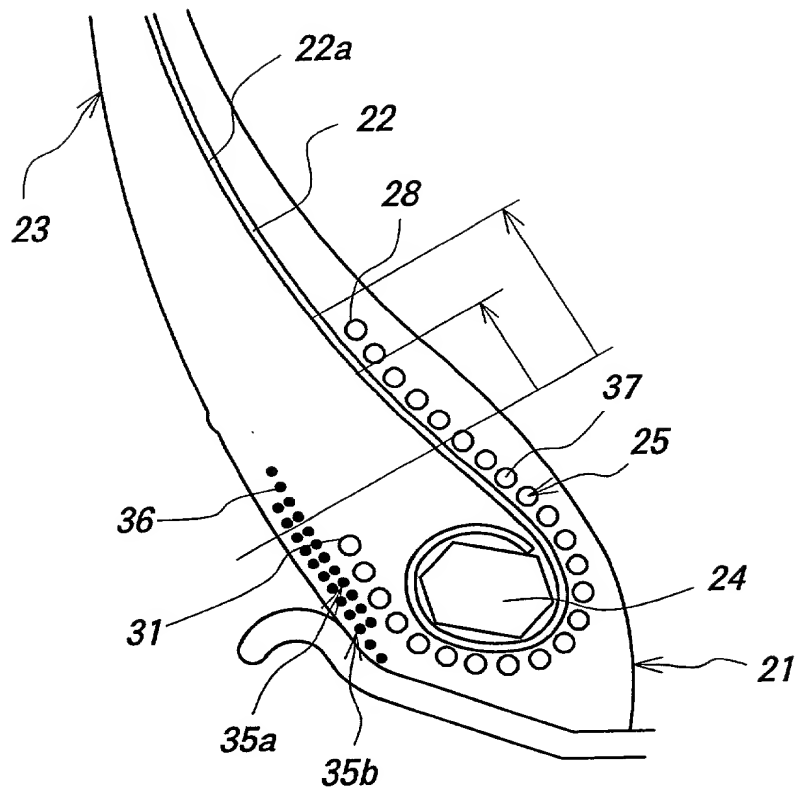
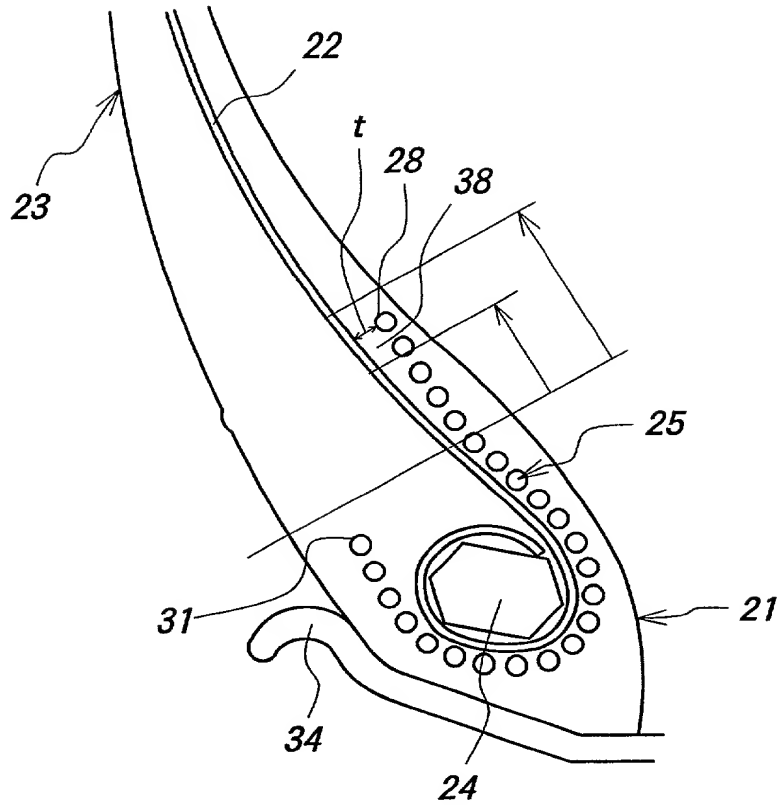
**FIG. 7**

FIG. 8



**FIG. 9**

**FIG. 10**

# Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

特許出願宣言書

## Japanese Language Declaration

私は、下欄に氏名を記載した発明として、以下の通り宣言する：

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、郵便の宛先および国籍は、下欄に氏名に続いて記載したとおりであり、

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

名称の発明に関し、請求の範囲に記載した特許を求める主題の本来の、最初にして唯一の発明者である（一人の氏名のみが下欄に記載されている場合）か、もしくは本来の、最初にして共同の発明者である（複数の氏名が下欄に記載されている場合）と信じ、

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

PNEUMATIC TIRES

その明細書を  
(該当するほうに印を付す)

the specification of which  
(check one)

☐ ここに添付する。

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ \_\_\_\_\_ 日に出願番号

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

第 \_\_\_\_\_ 号として提出し、

Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 日に補正した。  
(該当する場合)

and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

私は、前記のとおり補正した請求の範囲を含む前記明細書の内容を検討し、理解したことを陳述する。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37部第1章第56条(a)項に従い、本願の審査に所要の情報を開示すべき義務を有することを認める。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

# Japanese Language Declaration

(00041)

私は、合衆国法典第35部第119条、第172条、又は第365条に基づく下記の外国特許出願又は発明者証出願の外国優先権利益を主張し、さらに優先権の主張に係わる基礎出願の出願日前の出願日を有する外国特許出願又は発明者証出願を以下に明記する：

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119, §172 or §365 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

## Prior foreign applications

先の外国出願

(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願の年月日)	Priority claimed 優先権の主張	
11-189,126	JAPAN	2, July, 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes あり	<input type="checkbox"/> No なし
2000-4,348	JAPAN	13, January, 2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes あり	<input type="checkbox"/> No なし
2000-5,637	JAPAN	14, January, 2000	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes あり	<input type="checkbox"/> No なし
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願の年月日)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes あり	<input type="checkbox"/> No なし
(Number) (番号)	(Country) (国名)	(Day/Month/Year Filed) (出願の年月日)	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes あり	<input type="checkbox"/> No なし

私は、合衆国法典第35部第120条に基づく下記の合衆国特許出願の利益を主張し、本願の請求の範囲各項に記載の主題が合衆国法典第35部第112条第1項に規定の態様で先の合衆国出願に開示されていない限度において、先の出願の出願日と本願の国内出願日又はPCT国際出願日の間に公表された連邦規則法典第37部第1章第56条(a)項に記載の所要の情報を開示すべき義務を有することを認める。

I hereby claim the benefit of Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose any material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(現況) (Status)
		特許済み、係属中、放棄済み (patented, pending abandoned)
(Application Serial No.) (出願番号)	(Filing Date) (出願日)	(現況) (Status)
		特許済み、係属中、放棄済み (patented, pending abandoned)

私は、ここに自己の知識に基づいて行った陳述がすべて真実であり、自己の有する情報及び信ずるところに従って行った陳述が真実であると信じ、更に故意に虚偽の陳述等を行った場合、合衆国法典第18部第1001条により、罰金もしくは禁固に処せられるか、又はこれらの刑が併科され、又はかかる故意による虚偽の陳述が本願ないし本願に対して付与される特許の有効性を損なうことがあることを認識して、以上の陳述を行ったことを宣言する。

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true; and further that all statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

# Japanese Language Declaration

(0004)

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選任し、本願の手続きを遂行すること並びにこれに関する一  
切の行為を特許商標局に対して行うことを委任する。  
(代理人氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby  
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prosecute this application and transact all business in the  
Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (list  
name and registration number)

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No. 33,276; Bruce E. Kramer, Reg. No. 33,725; Paul F. Neils, Reg. No. 33,102; and Brett S. Sylvester, Reg. No. 32,765, my  
attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and  
request that all correspondence about the application be addressed to SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC, 2100  
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住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
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同第六発明者の署名		Sixth inventor's signature	
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住所		Residence	
国籍		Citizenship	
郵便の宛先		Post office address	